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INSPECTION SERVICE, MEXICAN BORDER.

Inspection at El Paso, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports as follows:

Week ended May 6, 1905. Inspection of Mexican Central passenger, 191; inspection of Mexican Central immigrants, 62; inspection of Stillwell excursion party, 70; inspection of Japanese, 2; inspection of Arabs, 2; fumigation of carload of bones, 1; disinfection of soiled linen imported for laundry work, 512 pieces.

Inspection at Laredo, Tex.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports as follows:

Week ended May 6, 1905. Passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 14; persons on passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 733; immigrants on passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 28; immigrants vaccinated upon entry from Mexico, 22; number of persons detained or refused entry for reason of being from a suspected port within five days, 5.

Inspection at Nogales, Ariz.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gustetter reports as follows:

Week ended May 6, 1905: Passengers inspected, 195; immigrants inspected, 59; immigrants deported (nonmedical), 3.

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
YEARLY AND MONTHLY.

CALIFORNIA—*Fresno*.—Month of April, 1905: Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 27, including diphtheria 2, and 3 from tuberculosis.

Los Angeles.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 180,000. Total number of deaths, 285, including cerebro-spinal meningitis 1, diphtheria 2, enteric fever 6, whooping cough 2, and 62 from tuberculosis.

Stockton.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 15, including 2 from tuberculosis.

GEORGIA—*Columbus*.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 20,764—white, 12,244; colored, 8,520. Total number of deaths, 18—white, 6; colored, 12, including 1 from tuberculosis.

MASSACHUSETTS—*Newton*.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 39,310. Total number of deaths, 31, including cerebro-spinal meningitis 1, and 2 from phthisis pulmonalis.

MONTANA—*Helena*.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 13,000. Total number of deaths not reported. One death from diphtheria and 1 from enteric fever reported.

NEW JERSEY—*Paterson*.—Month of March, 1905. Estimated population, 117,489. Total number of deaths, 163, including diphtheria 6, enteric fever 1, measles 1, scarlet fever 1, and 25 from tuberculosis.

West Hoboken.—Two weeks ended April 30, 1905. Estimated population not reported. Number of deaths not reported. One death from cerebro-spinal meningitis reported.

NEW YORK.—Reports to the State board of health, Albany, for the month of March, 1905, from 156 cities, towns, and villages, having an aggregate population of 7,918,000, show a total of 13,135 deaths, including diphtheria 208, enteric fever 97, measles 130, scarlet fever 106, whooping cough 66, smallpox 1, and 1,382 from phthisis pulmonalis.

The Monthly Bulletin for March says:

Cerebro-spinal meningitis attracts much attention this spring by reason of its special prevalence in various localities and because of frequent reference to it in the public press. It is also often graphic in its manifestations, sudden and rapid in its course, exceedingly fatal, and there is an uncertainty in its etiology with which the public have become familiar. But it is one of the minor contributors to mortality, for even now it holds a second or third place among epidemic diseases in the number of deaths, and in the number of cases it is considerably below other common communicable diseases and is far less virulent in its communicable quality.

The records of this department, covering a period of twenty years, show a pretty uniform number of deaths reported as from this disease yearly. Prior to 1904 the average reported mortality was 600 deaths a year. There were six years in which this number was exceeded, chiefly in the years 1891, 1892, and 1893, the highest number being reached in 1893, when there were 875 deaths. There were but five years when the number of deaths was less than 500, and in no year so low as 400. Evidently there has been a pretty uniform persistence of occasional cases of what has been reported as cerebro-spinal meningitis, and so far as that goes there is reasonable doubt as to the correctness of its diagnosis, for sanitarians believe that not infrequently it has been a misused term for a cause of death, and that is very likely true at the present time to some degree, when attention is upon it, of which we have some reasonable instances. Conclusions drawn from the reported mortality have to take into account in some measure the credibility of returns, which, where the factor is so small, materially affect their value, and one incompetent or careless reporter may disturb them. The number may, however, be understated as well as overstated.

In the last twenty years the number of deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis per 100,000 population in our sanitary districts has been approximately as follows: Maritime district, 9.5; Hudson Valley, 10; Adirondack, 7; Mohawk Valley, 7.5; Southern Tier, 4.7; East Central, 5.3; West Central, 4.8; Lake Ontario, 7.5; entire State, 8. The average for the period shows that it has, first, been relatively more prevalent in the eastern part of the State, the Hudson Valley districts showing the highest mortality; second, that it is more prevalent in districts having denser population; but, third, that the Adirondack district, which has the sparsest population in the State, has had a relatively high mortality. In regard to this last, it may be said that in the St. Lawrence Valley there have always been localities where the disease has been constantly prevalent enough sporadically to attract attention, and its relation to a high level of ground water which is common in parts of that region has been a subject of inquiry, a fact which has been likewise observed in connection with this disease elsewhere. The three districts of the central and southern parts of the State are seen to be almost free from its occurrence. The east central district shows a higher rate, and it should be noted that it includes the only considerable city in this region, and that if the deaths in Syracuse are deducted it has had only 4 deaths a year per 100,000 population.

In the twenty years there has been no year in which the present prevailing mortality has been reached. Prior to 1904 the maritime district had an average of 300 deaths a year, and has varied from 170 to 650, the latter number in 1893, with 365 in 1902; and again there was a gradual increase, after the fashion of later epidemics, from 1897 to 414 in 1899, with subsequent decrease, and for three years prior to 1904 the deaths were below the average. In the Hudson Valley district the highest mortalities were in the years prior to 1899, and again in 1898 and 1899 when there was an increase in the maritime district. In the Lake Ontario district there was a period of increase for three years to 1890, followed by three years of decrease. In the rest of the districts there is little variability from year to year.

In the five cities having over 100,000 population there has been 11 deaths a year for the past seven years per 100,000 population; this includes New York, where last year there were 36 deaths per 100,000 population, the Borough of Manhattan having 50. For the same period there were in the smaller cities 8 deaths per 100,000 population yearly, and in rural towns throughout the State, 5.

The present increased prevalence of cerebro-spinal meningitis began in New York City in March, 1904, and it affected localities in the vicinity, causing 1,432 deaths in the maritime district during the year, the average of previous years having been 300. It has developed in local epidemics in a few localities remote from these, especially this spring, chiefly in the Hudson and Mohawk Valley districts, in both of which the usual small mortality was nearly doubled in 1904. Its mortality was increased in the larger cities, Albany, Syracuse, and Buffalo, but the districts showed but little increase in mortality, amounting to not more than 50 deaths above the average for the year, outside of New York City.

During the months of this year the increase has been greater, 489 deaths having occurred, against 200 for the first three months of 1904, of which 735 were in New York. The increase is almost entirely still in the eastern districts, and limited outbreaks have been reported in numerous places, showing in the mortality of Yonkers, Peekskill, Albany, Troy, Schenectady, and a few rural towns.

Saratoga Springs.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 12,119. Total number of deaths, 13, including diphtheria 1, and 1 from tuberculosis.

PENNSYLVANIA-Altoona.—Month of April, 1905.—Census population, 38,973. Total number of deaths, 88, including diphtheria 2, enteric fever 1, scarlet fever 2, whooping cough 4, and 7 from tuberculosis.

Pottsville.—Year ended December 31, 1904. Estimated population, 16,500. Total number of deaths, 338, including diphtheria 18, enteric fever 3, measles 2, scarlet fever 2, whooping cough 1, and 26 from tuberculosis.

RHODE ISLAND-Newport.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 23,000. Total number of deaths 26, including 4 from tuberculosis.

TENNESSEE-Chattanooga.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 40,000—white, 27,000; colored, 13,000. Total number of deaths, 48—white 32, colored 16—including scarlet fever 1, and 12 from tuberculosis.

Nashville.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 83,520—white, 52,422; colored, 31,100. Total number of deaths 136—white

67, colored 69, including enteric fever 3, whooping cough 10, and 27 from tuberculosis.

VIRGINIA—Richmond.—Month of April, 1905. Estimated population, 100,000—white, 62,250; colored, 37,750. Total number of deaths, 141—white 82, colored 59, including enteric fever 2, and 21 from tuberculosis.

WEST VIRGINIA—Wheeling.—Three months ended March 31, 1904. Estimated population, 41,487. Total number of deaths 200, including diphtheria 4, enteric fever 8, measles 1, scarlatina 1, and 14 from tuberculosis.

Three months ended June 30, 1904. Total number of deaths 187, including diphtheria 3, enteric fever 18, measles 6, whooping cough 6, and 8 from tuberculosis.

^a Three months ended March 31, 1905. Total number of deaths 182, including diphtheria 2, enteric fever 7, whooping cough 2, and 22 from tuberculosis.

ARRIVALS OF IMMIGRANTS.

Report of immigration at Baltimore.

Number of alien immigrants who arrived at this port during the week ended May 13, 1905; also names of vessels and ports from which they came.

Date of arrival.	Vessel.	Where from.	Number of aliens.
May 5	Hannover	Bremen	1
7	Brookline	Port Antonio	3
8	Bodo	do	1
10	Brighton	do	1
	Total		6

Louis T. Weis, Commissioner.

^a Erroneously reported in issue of Public Health Reports, May 5, 1905, page 803, as for three weeks ended March 31, 1905.